

PRESS DEPARTMENT OF STATE



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STATEMENTS OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MELIH ESENBEL
FOREIGN MINISTER OF TURKEY
AND THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE
FOLLOWING THEIR BILATERAL BREAKFAST
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
DECEMBER 11, 1974

Foreign Minister Esenbel

Turkey and the United States decided on a course of action in October on Cyprus, but unfortunately the action taken by the United States Congress since then had hampered the progress we could make. We are inclined to look forward rather than backward.

But I must say the course of action that Turkey had decided to follow might not change and should not change whatever action is taken back in the United States as far as the aid situation is concerned. We are hopeful that we will get to some positive results in the foreseeable future.

Secretary Kissinger

I have had a useful talk with the Turkish Foreign Minister whom, of course, I know very well from long association in his service as Ambassador to Washington.

As you know, the United States stands for a peace of conciliation on Cyprus, and we had worked out certain approaches with the Turkish Government in October. We are attempting to proceed on the course which we had then attempted to bring about. The United States will continue to use its influence for a peace of conciliation on Cyprus.

With respect to aid to Turkey, the United States position has been, as I pointed out in my press conference on Saturday, that military aid to Turkey is not given as a favor to Turkey. It is not given to influence a particular negotiation. It is given for the security of the West for the common interest of all the Western countries in the defense of the Mediterranean, and therefore the position of our Administration with respect to aid to Turkey has been the one that we have repeatedly stated. Our position is also that progress should be made towards a just and conciliatory peace on Cyprus that takes into account the interest of all of the parties. The Foreign Minister and I will meet again this afternoon about 5:15 local time.

Thank you very much.

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